

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the record has a record type and wherein establishing the accumulation engine further comprises:
establishing a rules table that directs the accumulation engine based on the record type.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein establishing the accumulation engine further comprises:

establishing at least one function for processing a record, wherein the rules table directs the accumulation engine to apply the at least one function when dictated by the record type.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the record includes at least
2 one source field, and wherein receiving the record further comprises:

3 assigning a logical name to a source field, wherein the
4 accumulation engine processes the record using the logical name.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein establishing the discount
2 engine further comprises:

3 establishing at least one rule for processing the record to evaluate
4 discount qualification; and

5 establishing at least one rule for processing the record to evaluate
6 discount application.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein establishing the discount
2 engine further comprises:

3 establishing at least one simple rule for processing the record.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein establishing the discount
2 engine further comprises:

3 establishing at least one compound rule for processing the record,
4 the at least one compound rule being composed of a plurality of simple rules,
5 wherein the discount engine applies a compound rule by recursively applying
6 simple rules.

1 10. A discount system for managing information and rendering
2 discounts in a billing system, the discount system comprising:

3 a rule-based engine configured to receive a customer record
4 including data, process the record to accumulate the data in a plurality of
5 predetermined target accumulators, process the plurality of target accumulators
6 to render discounts applicable to the customer.

1 11. A computer readable storage medium having information
2 stored thereon representing instructions executable by a computer to manage

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3 information and render discounts in a billing system, the computer readable
4 storage medium further comprising:
5 instructions for receiving a customer record including data;
6 instructions for establishing a rule-based accumulation engine;
7 instructions for processing the record with the accumulation engine
8 to accumulate the data in a plurality of predetermined target accumulators;
9 instructions for establishing a rule-based discount engine; and
10 instructions for processing the plurality of target accumulators with
11 the discount engine to render discounts applicable to the customer.

1 12. The medium of claim 11 wherein the record has a record
2 type and wherein the medium further comprises:
3 instructions for establishing a rules table that directs the
4 accumulation engine based on the record type.

1 13. The medium of claim 12 further comprising:
2 instructions for establishing at least one rule for processing a
3 record by performing a sequence of operations to the data, wherein the rules table
4 directs the accumulation engine to apply the at least one rule when dictated by the
5 record type.

1 14. The medium of claim 13 further comprising:
2 instructions for establishing at least one function for processing a
3 record, wherein the rules table directs the accumulation engine to apply the at
4 least one function when dictated by the record type.

1 15. The medium of claim 13 wherein the rules table directs the
2 accumulation engine to pass the data directly to a target accumulator when
3 dictated by the record type.

1 16. The medium of claim 11 wherein the record includes at
2 least one source field, and wherein the medium further comprises:

3 instructions for assigning a logical name to a source field, wherein
4 the accumulation engine processes the record using the logical name.

1 17. The medium of claim 11 further comprising:
2 instructions for establishing at least one rule for processing the
3 record to evaluate discount qualification; and
4 instructions for establishing at least one rule for processing the
5 record to evaluate discount application.

1 18. The medium of claim 11 further comprising:
2 instructions for establishing at least one simple rule for processing
3 the record.

1 19. The medium of claim 18 further comprising:
2 instructions for establishing at least one compound rule for
3 processing the record, the at least one compound rule being composed of a
4 plurality of simple rules, wherein the discount engine applies a compound rule
5 by recursively applying simple rules.

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